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Saturday, September 22, 2012

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Last of 33,000 surge troops leave Afghanistan





The last of the 33,000 'surge' troops ordered into Afghanistan by President Barack Obama in 2009 have withdrawn from the country, returning the American presence to pre-surge levels, a senior U.S. defense official said yesterday. The surge in American troops was designed to push back the Taliban and create space for NATO forces to build the Afghan army to a point where it could take over Afghanistan's security, allowing for an eventual Western drawdown.

Aircraft registration: new Aruban economic pillar?



ORANJESTAD -- Last Thursday, Aruba was host to the kick off of the 2nd Annual Offshore Aircraft Registration Conference at the prestigious Renaissance Convention Center. At the conference, the Minister of Tourism indicated that Aruba must seriously consider outsourcing certain tasks if we are intent on capitalizing on the registration of aircrafts on Aruba.

The government of Aruba recognizes the high level of expertise of our Department of Civil Aviation, and is convinced that they are doing a superb job of control and vigilance, but that they must expand and integrate other components of added value, such as the quality and speed of various services.

In this context they have decided that they must outsource the aspect of inspection of aircraft registered here. Inspection, they are convinced must take place under the strict supervision of our own inspectors, as well as from the Department of Civil Aviation.

The government is also convinced that we must change our mentality regarding aircraft registration, or else others will pass us by. Aruba must ensure that we have the highest quality and speed of service while safeguarding the security aspect.

One of Aruba's goals is to capitalize on the aircraft regis-



tration market. Aircraft registration is important to Aruba; it is important revenue for our economy. Not only does it create additional funds for the government and more knowledge in the field of civil aviation, but it also has an

important spin off in the Aruban economy.

According to Minister Oduber, this conference is designed to open the eyes of all parties that the registration of aircrafts can become a new economic pillar for Aruba in the future.





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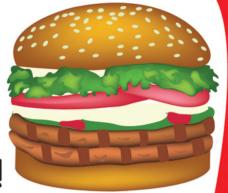
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New commemorative issue from Author Roy Colastica **PostAruba** presents new book





The Department of Philately, a subsection of PostAruba, issued a new commemorative stamp on Thursday, September 20. This is the seventh special issue of 2012, created by Aruban artist Ronna Lemminga, the subject being "Domestic Animals: Cats.'

There are eight stamps in the series, issued in two series of four, each having a face

value of 1.10 Aruban florins. This adorable series features cats and kittens at rest and play, and is a must-have for stamp collectors. The set is available as a first-day issue ensemble with coordinated envelope and cancellation stamp.

The newest collection, along with other beautiful stamps issued this year, can be purchased at the Philately

Desk in the main PostAruba office in Oranjestad from 7:30 AM until noon and from 1:00 to 4:30 PM, Monday through Friday. It is also sold at the Palm Beach Plaza branch office, which is open non-strop from 8:00AM until 8:00 PM Monday through Saturday.

Previous commemorative stamps issued this year and still on sale, are:

January 19, Eagles by Elvis Tromp, value: 10 Aruban florins,

February 21, Aruban Fauna, (Goats) by Edith van der Waal, value: 4 Aruban florins

April Summer Olympics, Rudberth Wolffe, 5 Aruban florins each, only in a

May 15, Whales by Angiolina Henriquez, value: 10 Aruban florins

June 21, Caribbean Dresses by Michiko Takatsu, value: 4 Aruban florins

August, Aruba Rembrandt Regatta by Adolfo Valbuena, value 6 Aruban florins

The next special commemoratives issue will be on Thursday, October 18, in time for sending holiday greetings. The theme will be Christmas & New Year 2012 by Stephanie Croes; stamps will have an individual value of 4 Aruban florins. For collectors, they can be purchased with matching envelope and cancellations stamp.

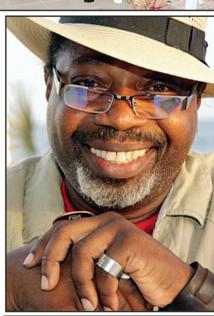


ORANJESTAD -- Early this week, Curacao born artist and author with an impressive artistic background took the stage at our Fort Zoutman to introduce his newest book, titled in Dutch, "Vuurwerk in mijn hoofd" (Fireworks in my head).

Roy Colastica's book is written both for children and adults with a uniquely motivating message. During the presentation of his book, it was revealed that Roy has a long association with Aruba dating back to 1987. Over the years he has shared in our children's' book festivals. and in numerous literary presentations.

Roy has recently presented his book in Holland and in Bonaire and with much success. We were delighted to have him bring his book here to Aruba as well. During the presentation of his book, this was combined with a youth combo by FDEC and the Gang di Arte.

Aruba congratulates Roy Colastica with his excellent book and trust that our youth will make good use of the book.





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Nominees for 2012 Teacher of Minister Arthur Dowers: the Year

ORANJESTAD -- This is the second year that Aruba is honoring teachers in this manner. A teacher of the year program was introduced here last year for the very first

The first teacher to be surprised by his nomination was teacher Derek Peterson of Colegio Frere Bonifacius. Teacher Derek was delighted with his nomination. Derek most assuredly has had a positive impact on his students to have been submitted for this nomination. Derek was personally congratulated by the Minister of Education last Wednesday morning.

The second teacher nominee to be surprised with his nomination was Geography teacher at Colegio Arubano, Herman Balentijn. When told by the Minister of Education that his name was submitted for teacher of the year, Balentiin was extremely pleased and honored by the nomination. He assured all that this gives him more reason to work even harder for his stu-



The third nominee is a teacher who recently celebrated 40 years working in teacher at Colegio EPI in the the field of education Teacher Eleonora Chase from Mon Plaisir College was the third teacher to be surprised by the honor of being nominated for the teacher of the year award. Teacher Chase remarked that for her teaching is more than just her work, it is her passion and is so pleased that her students

appreciate her so much.

The fourth nominee is a Economics division teacher Shahaira Rodulfo. The Minister remarked to Shahaira that her being chosen says something about her as a person and about her qualities as a teacher.

It is expected that on Wednesday October 10th the 2012 Teacher of the Year will be chosen and announced.

"Do not count on me to sign any law to legalize Cannabis!"

ORANJESTAD: Minister of Justice and education, Arthur Dowers recently made very clear his position on the issue of legalizing Cannabis on Aruba. This issue has been going on for a few days already.

The minister commented that those who are discussing this issue are trying to make it a political issue. Minister Dowers added emphatically: "They might as well stop with this discussion, because I, as Minister of Justice, will NOT sign any law to legalize Cannabis on Aruba!"

The minister added that each person has the right to discuss the academic and medicinal part of this issue, but as far as the Law is concerned and the legal trajectory to legalize Cannabis - which is possible on Aruba – he said: "Do not count on me!"

Cabinet formation talks could take just weeks

THE HAGUE -- Sources in but which allows individual The Hague suggest talks on forming a new right-left government between the VVD and Labour could be completed in a matter of weeks. The two parties emerged as the big winners in last week's general

Both parties want to draw up an agreement that sketches general strategy and positions ministers to develop detailed

The VVD and Labour both want a speedy formation process so they can amend parts of the 2013 budget agreement. Although Labour has now accepted the rise in valueadded tax to 21%, both parties want to change the proposed tax on travel expenses.



Reminder: 10th Anniversary Memory Aruba – I Am Your Island Walk today



Foundation Alzheimer Aruba (F.A.A.) ends their tenth Teal Ribbon Week, days of awareness raising events, with their Memory Walk, beginning this evening at 5:00 PM. This year's theme is "Stand up Against Stigma."

The traditional 5K Memory Walk will include Zumba. Registration starts at 4:00 Pm in the parking lot of the Guillermo Trinidad Stadium in Dakota. Registration fee is 5 Aruban florins per person, which entitles entrants to a tee shirt, fruit, refreshments and tickets for the great prizes from the annual raffle. Walkers are invited to be creative and form teams and groups. The route will travel down the Stadionweg to Vondellaan, back up Avenida Milio Croes, and down to the stadium parking lot. Principal sponsors for this year's walk are Tiara Air Aruba, Super Food, Ling and Sons Supermarket, ADCTRA and Divi Flamingo Resort, Bonaire.

F.A.A. will also be conducting programs on "Coping with a Loved One with Alzheimer's Related Disorders". A four day workshop on: Art Therapies for Individuals with Alzheimer's with visiting lecturers Professor Dr. Robert Winter

from North Carolina, and Professor Dr. Victor Fuenmayor from Venezuela, is scheduled from October 4-7, at the Holiday Inn.

Art therapies "have proven to be a very effective tool in understanding and communicating with those afflicted with Alzheimer's. They provide new ways to communicate, improved concentration, better behavior, closer relationships, increase in freedom and spontaneity, calming of agitation, relief of isolation, and improved communication." Those attending the workshop will learn how to use the creative process of making art to improve a person's physical, mental, and emotional well-

"When Words Have Lost Their Meaning: The Person with Alzheimer's Communicate through Art" is one of the workshops, "because though a person gradually loses the ability to express her/his self with words, other parts of their brain that deal with colors and body language can still be used to express their emotions and thoughts in a non-verbal way."

☐ Four (4) days Workshops Fee: US \$200,- (AWG. 350,-), including Sunday's experiential workshop with caretakers.

Sunday session is FREE for Caretakers of the participants. (Please register your caretaker: limited places available)

☐ Fee Includes: Tuition, Materials and Certificate. Tea/Coffee, Pastries.

☐ Book early, as there is limited placed available (Max. Fundacion Alzheimer Aruba (F.A.A.) reserves The Right To Retain 50% of The Fee, in case of cancellations after September 30th, 2012.

☐ Cancellation prior to September 30th will incur a \$30 (AWG. 52) administrative handling charge.

☐ Participants should wear comfortable, appropriate cloth-

☐ Venue of the workshops: Holiday Inn Resort Aruba, J.E. Irausquin Blvd 230

☐ Versions of materials in English, Spanish and Papiamento will be available at all workshops.

For more information and registration for workshops or the Memory Walk, contact F.A.A. President, Croes-Yanez, at their offices on the Avenida Milio Croes 29 SUITE-C, telephone 582-1684, Email: alzheimeraruba@gmail.com, or visit their website: www.alzheimeraruba.org

2013 Calendar Has Arrived

Award-winning photographer and pub-Werner lisher Bertsch's annual Photographic Aruba Calendar is now available at all Dewitt locations, as well as a variety of souvenir stores throughout the island. The 12 X 12 inch sized calendar has plenty of room to make appointment notations, personal comments and to mark special occa-

sions. This 2013 calendar compliments Werner's recently published book, Aruba I am Your Island, which has been available since May 2012.

The stunning colorful photographs chosen for the 2013 calendar, utilizing HDR Photography (High Dynamic Range), feature Aruba's tropical scenes: its sunrises; the beautiful beaches; the intensive colors and the abundant island charm of the locals. From the pristine beaches of Palm Beach to the rugged North Coast Shore, each photo in this large wall calendar tells a story of Aruba. As a bonus, each month includes a local favorite island recipe such as Chobolobo, Arepita di Pampuna and Bolo di Maishi.





Werner's challenge each year is to capture different and exciting photographs of Aruba in new and exciting ways. Various elements such as light, shadows and contrast can change each subject, but through his years as a photographer, Werner has learned to be patient and wait for that moment when the subject is just

Bono to receive Mexico's **Order of the Aztec Eagle**

MEXICO CITY (AFP) - Mexico will bestow the Order of the Aztec Eagle, the highest decoration awarded to foreigners, on U2 singer Bono in recognition of his humanitarian work and close ties with the country.

President Felipe Calderon may deliver the medal to the Irish star during his visit to

New York next week for the United Nations General Assembly, Foreign Minister Patricia Espinosa told reporters yesterday.

Espinosa said she spoke to Bono, who founded the global anti-poverty group ONE to help fight poverty and disease in Africa, to inform him of the decision

1st FCCA workshop held at Terminal 7 at Port of Oranjestad

ORANJESTAD--Terminal 7 at the Aruba Ports Authority was the venue yesterday for the 1st FCCA workshop and training from Aquila's Center for Cruise Excellence held at the port of Oranjestad. Mr. Alfonso Boekhoudt, Port Director welcomed all the participants to the workshop and emphasized the importance of participating in these workshops and learning about new ways to explore excellent service practices and discovering tools to assist in growing their business.

During the first segment of the course Mrs. Beth Kelly-Hatt gave a global overview of the cruise industry. She highlighted the fact that cruise passengers have increasingly high levels of expectations from their shore experiences as do the cruise lines and how important it was for a destination to measure up to these increasingly high standards to maintain their business.

After the introductory session the workshop led the FCCA Member tour operators who currently have contracts with the cruise lines through a consultative process that helped them identify proactive approaches to reach new levels of performance and productivity; offered them innovative ways to improve their own organizations; assisted them in identifying opportunities to be more profitable; and helped them develop an action plan for exceeding the increasing expectations of the cruise lines

The workshop catered specifically to the tour operator and covered topics that are relevant to their unique situation, such as safety issues, insurance and best practices. They were also coached by the industry expert on ways to take actions that will positively impact their business, from performance to profits and assessments, and reports on findings and opportunities.

At the end the participant received additional information about the online Tour Guide Excellence training and certification program.* FCCA members who invest in their Tour Guides in their destination will be included on a list of endorsed operations sent to all FCCA member Cruise Lines.

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Press group calls for release of jailed Cuban journalist

MIAMI (AFP) - The Inter-American Press Association called yesterday for the immediate release of a Cuban journalist who was arrested this week for reporting on cholera and dengue cases.

Calixto Martinez Arias, who was arrested in Cuba Sunday, was charged with criminal contempt of Fidel and Raul Castro, a charge that carries a penalty of up to three years in prison, IAPA said.

The Miami-based publishers' group said Arias, who

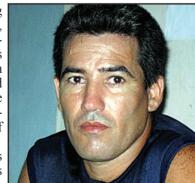
worked for the independent Hablemos Press news service, was arrested near the Havana airport while investigating reports that a shipment of medicine and medical equipment donated by the World Health Organization had been damaged due to negligence.

He had disclosed an outbreak of cholera on the communist-ruled island in June, and warned of the appearance of dengue cases.

"It is a contradiction that a journalist faces the possibility

of going to jail for reporting on matters of public interest, while on the contrary the information should be taken as an alert to correct a problem affecting the population," said Gustavo Mohme, editor of the Peruvian newspaper La Republica and the head of IAPA's free press committee.

The director of Hablemos Press, Roberto de Jesus Guerra, and a lawyer for the news service told IAPA that Martinez was being held at a Havana police station and had



been beaten, and that they themselves were detained and later released.



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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

17 killed in Pakistan film protests: officials

KARACHI (AFP) - At least 17 people were killed and more than 200 wounded during violent protests in Pakistan yesterday against a US-made film insulting Islam, officials said.

Twelve people were killed in Karachi, the country's largest city, and five in the northwestern city of Peshawar, hospital officials said, after the eruption of violence defied a government call for only peaceful demonstrations.

The combined total of wounded in Karachi, Peshawar and in the capital Islamabad was 229.

Thousands took to the streets in a series of demonstrations across Karachi, home to an estimated 18 million, to condemn the film, "Innocence of Muslims"

Scuffles broke out when protesters tried to march towards the US consulate, throwing stones at police and trying to remove shipping containers that blocked the road, police said.

Officers launched tear gas shells and fired into the air to disperse the crowd, but three policemen were wounded by gunfire from an unknown direction, Shakeel said.

Police said three cinemas were set on fire and a number of shops including a KFC restaurant were ransacked.

In the northwestern city of Peshawar, the Lady Reading Hospital said it had four dead, including a TV station employee shot when protesters set alight and ransacked a cinema.

Doctor Farman at Khyber Teaching Hospital, who used only one name, confirmed that another body had been brought in after the demonstrations.

Hospital doctors in Peshawar gave a combined total of 79 people wounded.

Interior Minister Rehman Malik said he had ordered an investigation into the TV station employee's death and repeated government calls for protests to remain peaceful.

ARY, the man's employer, accused the police of murder.

The channel broadcast disturbing footage of its employee, clearly in a critical condition and receiving urgent medical care in hospital.

In Islamabad, a doctor at the Services Hospital said 35 people were brought in with injuries, including eight policemen and four civilians with gunshot wounds.

Overall, 19 people have been killed in Pakistan during protests over the past week against a trailer for the crudely made film, made by extremist Christians in the United States.

Clinton: Nations have duty to protect diplomatic missions

WASHINGTON (AFP) - US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton reminded governments yesterday of their "solemn duty" to protect diplomatic missions, amid a wave of anti-American unrest in the Muslim world.

'As I have said before and as is embodied in the Vienna Convention and other international agreements, all governments have the duty, the solemn duty, to defend diplomatic missions, Clinton said.

"They must be safe and protected places," she said before talks with Tunisia's For-Minister Rafik eign Abdessalem.

Tens of thousands took to the streets after Friday prayers in the Middle East and Asia to vent their anger over a USmade film ridiculing the Prophet Mohammed and the publication in France of cartoons lampooning him.

US and French diplomatic missions were bracing for the unrest, after the US outpost in Benghazi was attacked by militants last week in an hourslong siege in which the US ambassador to Libya and three other Americans were killed.

"We are monitoring events closely today. There is no higher priority for President Obama and myself than the safety of our people," Clinton added.

"We have taken a number of steps around the world to augment security and to protect our personnel at diplomatic posts and we are working closely with host governments in this effort."

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Protest at France's London embassy over Mohammed cartoons

LONDON (AFP) - Around a hundred Muslim protesters gathered outside the French embassy in London yesterday, shouting slogans against a French magazine that published cartoons portraying the Prophet Mohammed naked.

French satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo published the cartoons on Wednesday, fuelling earlier protests over the US-made film "Innocence of Muslims" which have raged since September 11, leaving nearly 50 people dead.

Protesters outside France's embassy in London's plush Knightsbridge district shouted "Allahu Akbar" (God is great) and waved placards reading "Sharia for France" and "Muslims will conquer France", an AFP reporter at the scene said.

A police cordon held the demonstrators back from the embassy while around 25 women wearing niqabs, or full face-veils, protested in a separate group nearby.

Protester Untuaz Ahmad, 34, said both the film and cartoons had been "very upset-

ting".
"This is not acceptable. This is not freedom of speech," he said. "We want the French government to take action against the people who have done this."

France has banned protests over the cartoons on the grounds that they would represent a threat to public order.

French missions, schools and cultural centers in 20 countries -- although not in Britain -- closed for the day yesterday over security concerns, while Western missions across the Arab world were on high alert.

Tens of thousands took to the streets after yesterday prayers in countries across the Middle East and Asia, as anger over the film showed little sign of abating.

American cancels hundreds of flights

DULLUS -- American Airlines has cancelled 300 flights until Sept 23 as it grapples with an increasing number of maintenance delays as well as pilots calling in sick after the company won court permission to alter their contract.

The cancellations, which began on Tuesday, are on top of 250 flights dropped from Sept 14-17 that prompted AMR Corp's American to trim systemwide flight and seating capacity as much as 2 per cent through October.

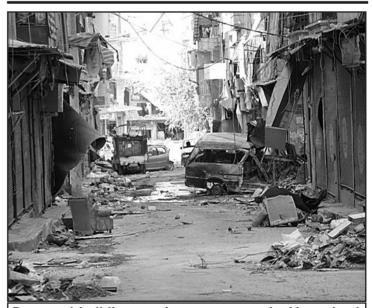
The disruptions occurred as American began imposing changes on pilots such as revised schedules and work rules



allowed by the judge overseeing its bankruptcy. The carrier also began steps this week to lay off as many as 4,400 mechanics, baggage handlers and other ground workers as it re-

structures.

American Airlines, which filed for bankruptcy protection in November blamed the move in part on industry-leading labour costs.



Damaged buildings and cars are seen in Aleppo's al-Midan neighbourhood after clashes between Free Syrian Army fighters and forces loyal to President Bashar al-Assad. President al-Assad says Syrian rebels will not be victorious in their fight against his government, although the "door to dialogue remains open."

THE MORNING NEWS



New law forces US-funded Russian radio station off air

MOSCOW (AFP) - Russia's US government-funded Radio Liberty station said yesterday that a tough new law limiting foreign funding of the media had forced it to cut more than half its staff and plan a move off air.

The station famous for being jammed throughout the Soviet era because of its pro-American perspective at the height of the Cold War said it expected to switch to exclusive Internet broadcasting in a matter of weeks.

"More than half of the staff was laid off -- maybe 70 percent," station director Yelena Glushkova told AFP.

The Moscow office of Radio Liberty / Radio Free Europe (RFE/RL) employed about 60 reporters. Most of the cuts affected the multimedia division despite the station's forced shift to Internet-only broadcasting.

"A number of our employees were not able to take part in the Internet project," Glushkova said amid speculation that the layoffs came under Kremlin pressure.

The Kremlin under former president Dmitry Medvedev rammed through parliament a little-noticed piece of legislation revoking the operating li-

cences of stations that received more than approximately half of their funds from abroad.

The law could theoretically apply to other radio stations as well, including those that are part of European entertainment conglomerates. None has announced plans to followed RFE/RL off air as yet.

The layoffs came amid speculation that the station was under pressure after it named as its new boss a journalist who was fired from her previous post for refusing to cover a media event thrown by President Vladimir Putin

Ig Nobels awarded for zany side of serious science

NEW YORK (AFP) - Scientists behind studies on brain activity in dead fish and photos of chimpanzee butts were among dozens honored with the tongue-in-cheek Ig Nobel awards Thursday.

The 22nd annual edition of the Nobel prize spoof, held at Boston's uber-prestigious Harvard University, also distinguished the researchers behind a study proving that "leaning to the left makes the Eiffel Tower seem smaller."

The prize, created to reward "research that makes people laugh and then think," according to the organizers' website, invites real Nobel laureates to confer honors on serious scientists for work that is generally only unintentionally funny.

This year's Neuroscience prize, for example, went to an American team "for demonstrating that brain researchers, by using complicated instruments and simple statistics, can see meaningful brain activ-



ity anywhere -- even in a dead salmon."

Other prizes of note: the Fluid Dynamics prize, to a US-Russian-Canadian team "for studying the dynamics of liquid-sloshing, to learn what happens when a person walks while carrying a cup of coffee;" and the Anatomy prize to a Dutch-US team "for discovering that chimpanzees can identify other chimpanzees individually from seeing pho-

tographs of their rear ends."

Some of the prizes went to studies offering helpful information, like this year's Medicine prize, to a French team who advised doctors "how to minimize the chance that their patients will explode" during colonoscopies.

And the Chemistry prize went to a Swedish scientist who solved "the puzzle of why, in certain houses" in a certain Swedish town, "people's hair turned green."

Companies and governments are also eligible for the prize, and this year's Peace Prize was awarded to a Russian company "for converting old Russian ammunition into new diamonds."

The US government, at least its General Accountability Office, was also honored, with the Literature prize "for issuing a report about reports about reports that recommends the preparation of a report about the report about reports about reports."

France, Britain form joint team to probe Alps killings

GRENOBLE (AFP) - Police in France and Britain have formed a joint task force to ease bureaucratic hurdles in the investigation into the unexplained massacre of a British family in the Alps.

The task force, led by two investigating French magistrates, will be made up of British police officers and French gendarmes and operate in coordination with EU judicial agency Eurojust, French prosecutors and Eurojust said.

The team will operate "as if we were in a single country" and investigators from both nations will have "full access to the case as if there were no border," said Eric Maillaud, the prosecutor in the local town of Annecy.

Previously French investigators were running into difficulties working with Britain's Home Office and saw some legal requests rejected for being improperly formulated.

About 100 investigators are working full-time on the case and Maillaud admitted the probe is progressing slowly.

"It is an investigation that risks lasting an enormously long time. Often investigators

have a theory in the first hours of an investigation. This time we have no idea," he said.

The mystery attack on September 6 near the village of Chevaline saw Saad al-Hilli, his wife Iqbal, her mother as well as Frenchman Sylvain Mollier, a passing cyclist, shot dead. The couple's two young daughters survived the attack.

One of the daughters, Zainab al-Hilli told investigators yesterday, shortly after emerging from a medically induced coma, that she had seen "one bad guy," a source said.

Health & Living

No buts, in Beverly Hills it has to be a butt job

BEVERLY HILLS (AFP) - Forget face lifts or boob jobs - in California the latest cosmetic surgery must-have is the buttock enhancement, whether higher, rounder or just smoother.

"I just knew that I was unhappy. And you know I did something for myself, something that did make me happy. And I feel great," said Kristina, 21, after going under the knife of surgeon Ashkan Ghavami.

He has carried out the S-Curve Buttock Lift operation - which, instead of using implants, involves fat taken from the tummy and elsewhere and transferred to the buttocks -- on around 700 people.

Ghavami, an Iranian-American who is assistant clinical professor at the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA) David Geffen School of Medicine, said Hollywood stars had raised people's desire for a nicer "derriere."

"A lot of people focused more on breasts -- for the buttock to be a focus of body shaping is definitely very new," the medic, who pioneered the S-Curve and now teaches it to other surgeons, told AFP at his Beverly Hills clinic.

"Finally thanks to Kim Kardashian, Jennifer Lopez and all the media, now we are realizing this a much more natural way than butt implants."

He has performed the operation -- which typically costs \$9,000-\$16,000 -- for seven years, with the surgery most popular with black, Latino, gay and transgender people in



Los Angeles, where the cult of the body is everywhere.

Ghavami's clinic is in the Zip code area "90210" -- the name of a coming of age TV show set in Beverly Hills, a city where dreams famously come true on the silver screen, especially if you look beautiful enough.

But achieving a better behind is not done without at least some pain.

"We do liposuction with small incisions, we go in with a canula and we suction the fat into a sterile container and then we wash the fat and put it into syringes and then inject it into the buttock," he said.

"When I'm injecting into the buttock, we do what's called the fanning technique -- it actually improves cellulite, because it fills the skin underneath," he added.

And contrary to some misconceptions, even prejudices, the operation is not necessarily anything to do with a patient being overweight.

"I never had a weight issue, but after I hit 40 I had 10 extra pounds. I actually gained 10 pounds just to have the procedure, so there would be more fat to transfer -- the more the better," said the accountant.

"My weight is really the same, it's just redistributed," she added.

According to the Association of Plastic Surgeons, last year some 13.8 million cosmetic operations were carried out in the United States -- five percent more than in 2010.

The most popular surgery is breast-enhancement, followed by nose jobs, liposuction and face lifts.

But the number of buttock enhancements has surged, with 38 percent more this year than in the same period in 2010. Ghavami says most of the 700 he has carried out were within the last three to four years.

"It's new for a lot of surgeons right now, that's why I'm invited to go lecture at meetings about it, because surgeons are very curious about it, it's trendy," he said.

For the patients the outcome can be life-changing. "They definitely save and invest to do it because when you're not happy with your body shape, there's something out there that can help you with it," said Ghavami.

"It's good for them, to their relationship, their husbands, their confidence."

Taj Mahal

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'Moonshot' Against Cancers

WASHINGTON - The nation's largest cancer hospital, University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, in Houston announced it would take a "moonshot" effort in fighting cancer. Launching in February 2013, its program which aim to reduce cancer deaths of eight specific types of the disease.

The center expects to spend as much as \$3 billion on the project over the next 10 years and already has "tens of millions" of dollars in gifts to jump start it now, said its president, Dr. Ronald DePinho.

The dramatic effort is inspired by John F. Kennedy's push for space exploration in

the 1960s, specifically when the former president insisted America land on the moon and do other challenging tasks "not because they are easy, but because they are hard." "When Kennedy stood up there on September 1962, he didn't say that we're going to study how to get to the moon," Ronald DePinho, president of MD Anderson, told ABC News. "He said we are going to the moon. Then the nation rallied to make sure we went to the moon." While cancer death rates have been falling since the 1990s, the disease is still a major threat.

Beauty Tips for Teen Girls

Being a teen in today's world brings many pressures from society to look good. There are many ways to enhance your natural beauty and keep a practical skin care and makeup routine. These tips will help bring out the best in you. But remember, good



posture and a smile give a great first impression.

* At an early age, a light moisturizer may be called for, but do not use heavy creams made for dry skin. Choose a product that is formulated for light skin care maintenance that does not block your pores.

* Acne is the #1 skin care concern for teens. Keep your face and hair clean, wash your hands frequently, and keep them away from your face. There are many products available on the market today for acne prevention and cures, and they are much more effective than years ago.

* Keep your makeup light for school. You don't need to use it on every facial feature you have! Mix and match to find out what looks best on you. For parties, you may want to add a little more makeup to add some glam.

* Don't try to hide your freckles. You may not appreciate them, but they are part of you. Exposure to sunlight makes freckles darker so avoiding the sun and using a sunscreen will keep them in check.

* Liquid and stick blush are popular choices for teens because they glide on smoothly and blend in well.

* For luscious lips, lip gloss does the trick. If you want to add some color to your lips for a nighttime look, try a lipstick in a sheer color. For extra shine, put the lip gloss on over your lipstick. Always have lip balm handy for chapped lips.

* As with any makeup, blending is the key and Never go to bed with makeup on.

Pope urges French bishops to fight for heterosexual marriage



CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy (AFP) - The pope on Friday urged French bishops to fight for the traditional family based on marriage between a man and a woman, saying the battle "is not reactionary."

While the French government prepares to legalise homosexual marriage, Pope Benedict XVI spoke to around 30 bishops from western France, without mentioning the draft law but clearly referring to the debate around it.

During the feast of the Assumption on August 15, France's Roman Catholic bishops invited their followers to say a prayer that was interpreted as a stand against homosexual marriage, sparking a

row in France.

"Defending life and the family in society is not at all reactionary but rather prophetic because it comes back to promoting values which allow for the full blossoming of the human person, created in the image and resemblance of God," the pope said.

For the pope, "marriage and family are institutions which must be promoted and guaranteed"

The working visits "ad limina" by the French bishops that will continue until December are the first to be made under the pontificate of Benedict XVI



Sci-Tech

EU Forces Facebook to Kill Face Recognition



Facebook (FB) has axed its facial recognition functionality for users in the European Union to satisfy the concerns of privacy regulators.

Data Protection Commissioner Billy Hawkes said: "I am satisfied that the review has demonstrated a clear and ongoing commitment on the part of Facebook to comply

with its data protection responsibilities by way of implementation or progress towards implementation of the recommendations in the Audit Report

The Irish data protection commissioner (DPC) issued his assessment (pdf) on Friday of Facebook's compliance with recommendations the regulator made last December. The DPC, who was forced into the issue following complaints by a group of Austrian law students calling themselves "Europe v Facebook," had told Facebook it had to be more upfront about giving users privacy choices.

Facebook, which was targeted in Ireland because that's where all its non-North American business is based, is also crowing about going beyond the call of duty: "The latest announcement is confirmation that we are not only compliant with European data protection law," the company said, "but we have gone beyond some of their initial recommendations and are fully committed to best practice in data protection compliance."

Italian police track mafia with Facebook



ROME (AFP) - Italian police are making use of Facebook to identify criminal networks and even to catch gangsters who cannot resist posting updates while on the run, L'Espresso weekly reported on Friday.

The report gave examples of mafia members using the network to make extortion demands, send death threats and organise home deliveries of

ROME (AFP) - Italian police drugs, as well as to demonstrate the clout of their social identify criminal networks and circle.

Antonello Ardituro, an antimafia prosecutor in Naples, said: "Facebook allows you to spread messages in a simple and direct way."

Following an attempt on his life, one suspected mafia member posted a Facebook update: "An eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth. Show no mercy."

The man's profile revealed he was a fan of the film "Scarface" with Al Pacino and showed a photo of his birthday cake with two chocolate guns.

Police also follow the movements of suspected gangsters with Facebook.

An alleged contract killer who kept checking his Facebook profile was nabbed after police tracked the Internet key he was using to log on.

A leading boss was caught when he posted two photos on his girlfriend's Facebook page that showed he was in Marbella on southern Spanish coast

Another man was caught in Venezuela where he was trying to organise drug shipments to Europe through the social network using a fake profile.

France rejects ban on bullfighting



PARIS (AFP) - France's Constitutional Council Friday rejected a request by animal-rights activists to ban bullfighting in the southern areas where it is still authorised.

The council said it was not against the spirit of the constitution to allow the practice in some regions despite it being banned in most of the country.

France holds dozens of bullfights every year, with more than 1,000 animals killed annually in bouts that supporters defend as a local tradition and an important generator of tourism.

The council said the provision allowing bullfighting in the south was "precise, objective and rational", adding that "these traditional practices thus authorised do not infringe upon constitutional rights."

The anti-bullfighting group CRAC and animal-rights organisation DDA had asked the

council to impose a nationwide ban by closing the loophole allowing the tradition to continue in southern areas.

Polls have generally indicated that about two-thirds of the French electorate would like to see bullfighting banned entirely.

The sport has many passionate defenders, including Interior Minister Manuel Valls who enraged bullfighting opponents earlier this month by insisting it is a tradition that should be saved.

Defenders have also pointed to the economic benefits of a sport that they say attracts large numbers of tourists to southern France.

Animal rights activists plan to continue their fight to have bullfighting banned, lobbying to have parliament enact a ban and are also considering a challenge to the practice through the European Court of Human Rights.



PICKLES









MOMMA





CALVIN and HOBBES



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ACROSS

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- 4. "Don't _ My Parade"
- 8. Astronomical bear
- 12. Amos or
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- 13. Italian town
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- 19. Weevil, e.g.
- 20. Nearly impossible
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- 24. Not me 25. Berlin article

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- 47. ___ machine 49. Cover charge
- 51. Mother of
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62. Preliminary plans

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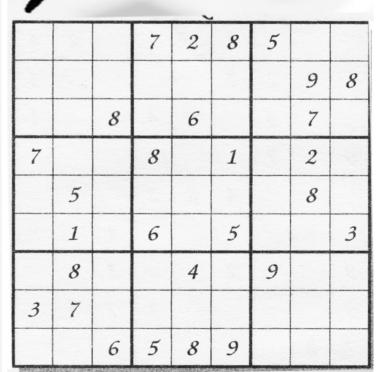
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Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9 A number is Never repeated in a row or column. In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9

Finance

WTO cuts 2012 global trade growth outlook

SINGAPORE (AFP) - The World Trade Organization (WTO) yesterday slashed its 2012 global trade outlook, citing the eurozone debt crisis and weak growth in the US and China as key factors.

Global trade is now expected to grow 2.5 percent in 2012 compared with a previous forecast of 3.7 percent, the WTO said in a statement released in Singapore.

It also cut its global trade growth outlook for next year to 4.5 percent from 5.6 percent.

"The global economy has encountered increasingly strong headwinds since the last WTO Secretariat forecast was issued," the WTO said.

"Output and employment data in the United States have continued to disappoint, while purchasing managers' indices and industrial production figures in China point to slower growth in the world's largest exporter.

"More importantly, the Eu-

rate of 14.1%

tromney.com/disclosure.

ropean sovereign debt crisis has not abated, making fiscal adjustment in the peripheral euro area economies more painful and stoking volatility."

In April the WTO had warned that world trade growth, which slowed to 5.0 percent in 2011 after a big rebound of 14.0 percent in 2010, would weaken again this year.

Director-general Pascal Lamy called for more to be done to boost global growth, on top of recent measures to buy up government bonds announced by the central banks of the United States, Europe and Japan.

"In an increasingly interdependent world, economic shocks in one region can quickly spread to others," he said in the statement.

"Recently announced measures to reinforce the euro and boost growth in the United States are therefore extremely welcome. But more needs to be done. We need a renewed

commitment to revitalise the multilateral trading system which can restore economic certainty at a time when it is badly needed."

The WTO's revised projections for 2012 came as data showed global trade volume grew just 0.3 percent in the second quarter, significantly slower than the 1.2 percent seen in the previous three months.

Lamy, speaking in Singapore, said the WTO's revised trade outlook should not come as a surprise given the strains facing the global economy.

"The main reason for growth slowing down is being of course Europe where growth is slowing. But not only Europe, we also know that US is lower than expected," said Lamy.

"So it is a substantial downward revision but in many ways unsurprising given what we know about the world economic outlook and the fact that world growth is slowing down more than we expected some months ago," he added.

Lamy said there were already signs pointing to governments bowing to pressures to adopt protectionist measures but the WTO chief cautioned against such a move.

Instead, the best way forward is for governments to support the global multilateral trading system, he said.

"We clearly are at a stage in trade relations where we really do need to see a practical reaffirmation from governments of their commitment to international trade cooperation, and to the institutional arrangements that support the world trading system," he said.

"If we do not reaffirm this commitment with more than words, especially when the going gets tough, we risk letting things go to a point where it becomes harder to pull back from a path of continuing deterioration."

Reebok _{रीबॉक}

Campaign: Romney files

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Republican presidential nominee

Mitt Romney filed his 2011 tax returns Friday, his cam-

paign said, adding that the Romneys paid an effective tax

showing the Romneys paid taxes for each of the past 20

years at an average effective rate of 20.2 percent, and that

the lowest tax rate during that period was 13.6 percent.

ducted and notarized by PricewaterhouseCoopers, is

available for public view online at the website www.mit-

The latest filing, as well as the 20-year summary con-

The campaign also said a tax summary was released

2011 tax returns, paid

rate of 14.1 percent on \$13.6 million in income.

NEW DELHI - Police have arrested five former senior executives of Reebok India for allegedly defrauding the sportswear company of about US\$160 million over a number of years, police said yesterday. The company's former managing director, chief operating officer and three general managers were arrested on Wednesday on accusations of forging records, stealing goods and creating ghost distributors across India to defraud Reebok.

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer CEASE BRIC AWES ALLAN EURO BYTE BULLDURHAM AARE ODIE FER PATTED TEESHOT MANET MAS BADDREAM CABAL MARRY ALE ATON CADGE PROS POD HINGE DEPTH SPYMOVIE LET GAMIN BABETTE LAUREL ELI READ ARAM WATERWORLD

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Canada	CAD	1.81	1.83	1.85				
Britiain	GBP	2.83	2.88	2.94				
Switzerland	CHF	190.86	191.58	192.38				
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Sweden	SEK	26.25	26.97	27.69				
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Evita the new face of Argentina's 100 peso note



BUENOS AIRES (AFP) - Argentina marked the 60th anniversary of the death of Eva Peron yesterday with a new 100-peso banknote featuring the charismatic first lady and champion of the poor.

Evita appears in profile on the note, with the quote, "As a woman, I feel in my soul the warm tenderness of the people where I came from and whom I owe."

On the back side of the bill she is described as "a popular leader who fought for the rights of humble and unprotected workers." The daughter of a small-town seamstress, Peron first won fame as an actress, before marrying Juan Domingo Peron, a military strongman who became president a year later in 1946.

She died in 1952 at age 33 of cancer, at the peak of her popularity, cementing a legend celebrated in books and film.

President Cristina Kirchner cheered the new banknote when it went into printing on July 25, noting that "after 200 years of currency, this is the first time a woman appears on a bill."



A Senate panel said on Thursday that Microsoft and Hewlett-Packard used offshore units to avoid US taxes on billion of dollars, taking advantage of loopholes. The Senate's Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations said tax avoidance in the technology sector was rampant, with companies using intellectual property, royalties and license fees in tax havens to skirt taxes in America. According to the report, Microsoft saved nearly \$7 billion on its tax bill since 2009, while HP shifted billions of dollars between two offshore subsidiaries, thus avoiding paying taxes.

Jesus fresco 'destroyer' in Spain now a tourist attraction



The woman who ruined a prized Jesus Christ fresco in Spain is now demanding royalties after her botched restoration became a hit with tourists.

Lawyers for Cecilia Gimenez, who is in her 80s, say any "economic compensation" would go to charities.

She made headlines after her do-it-yourself restoration in a church left the 19th Century fresco of Christ resembling a hairy monkey.

But thousands of people have since visited the church near Zaragoza.

The airline Ryanair is now even offering deals to the north-eastern Spanish city, encouraging tourists to see the fresco in the Sanctuary of Mercy Church in Borja.

Ms Gimenez earlier said she had decided to restore the work by Elias Garcia Martinez because of its deterioration due to moisture.

She claimed to have had the permission of the parish priest to carry out the job.

Cultural officials said she had the best intentions and hoped the piece could be properly restored.

New law forces US-funded Russian radio station off air

MOSCOW (AFP) - Russia's US government-funded Radio Liberty station said Friday that a tough new law limiting foreign funding of the media had forced it to cut more than half its staff and plan a move off

The station famous for being jammed throughout the Soviet era because of its pro-American perspective at the height of the Cold War said it expected to switch to exclusive Internet broadcasting in a matter of weeks.

"More than half of the staff was laid off -- maybe 70 percent," station director Yelena Glushkova told AFP.

The Moscow office of Radio Liberty / Radio Free Europe (RFE/RL) employed about 60 reporters. Most of the cuts affected the multimedia division despite the station's forced shift to Internet-only broadcasting.

"A number of our employees were not able to take part in the (Internet) project," Glushkova said amid speculation that the layoffs came under Kremlin pressure.

The Kremlin under former president Dmitry Medvedev rammed through parliament a little-noticed piece of legislation revoking the operating licences of stations that received more than approximately half of their funds from

The law could theoretically apply to other radio stations as well, including those that are part of European entertainment conglomerates. None has announced plans to followed RFE/RL off air as yet.

The layoffs came amid speculation that the station was under pressure after it named as its new boss a journalist who was fired from her previous post for refusing to cover a media event thrown by President Vladimir Putin.

Emmy Awards could crown new winners



This is a particularly difficult year to divine which way the Emmy winds will blow toward past favorites or strong new drama and comedy contenders.

This Sunday's night at ABC ith Jimmy Kimmel's much anticipated first turn as host.

Here's the list for some category:

Drama Series Boardwalk Empire, HBO Breaking Bad, AMC Downton Abbey, PBS Game of Thrones, HBO Homeland, Showtime Mad Men. AMC

Lead Actor, Drama

Hugh Bonneville, Downton Abbey

Steve Buscemi, Boardwalk

Bryan Cranston, Breaking

Michael C. Hall, Dexter Jon Hamm, Mad Men Damian Lewis, Homeland Lead Actress, Drama Kathy Bates, Harry's Law Glenn Close, Damages Claire Danes, Homeland Michelle Dockery, Downton Abbey

Julianna Margulies, The

Good Wife

Elisabeth Moss, Mad Men **Comedy Series**

The Big Bang Theory, CBS Curb Your Enthusiasm,

Girls, HBO Modern Family, ABC 30 Rock, NBC

Veep, HBO Movie/Miniseries

American Horror Story, FX Game Change, HBO Hatfields & McCoys, His-

Hemingway & Gellhorn,

Luther, BBC America Sherlock: A Scandal in Belgravia, PBS

Reality-Competition Pro-

The Amazing Race, CBS Dancing With the Stars,

Project Runway, Lifetime So You Think You Can Dance, Fox

Top Chef, Bravo The Voice, NBC

Paris Hilton Gay Men Are Disgusting ... Most Probably Have **AIDS**



Paris Hilton has apologized for making a series of homophobic remarks that were caught on tape by New York cab driver. During a conversation with a friend about Grindr, the popular social app for gay men, Hilton is heard to loudly proclaim, "Gay guys are the horniest people in the world...they're disgusting. Dude, most of them probably have AIDS." The 31-year-old hotel heiress released an extensive statement to the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD), saying she was sorry for causing "pain to my gay friends, fans and their families with the comments." Shortly after the tape was posted Hilton's publicist said her comments were expressions of concern about the dangers of unprotected sex, not homophobic slurs. In a statement to CNN Thursday, the rep confirmed the recording was authentic, but said, "It was not her intent to make any derogatory comments about all gays."



Lindsay Lohan makes her Liz Taylor debut in 'Liz & Dick' trailer. The film, which is set to premiere on Lifetime in November, was shot earlier this summer and generated negative headlines during filming when paramedics were called to Lohan's hotel penthouse in Santa Monica. The TV film stars Lohan as Liz Taylor and Grant Bowler as Richard Burton and chronicles the two performers' tempestuous love affair, which began on the set of "Cleopatra." Though there's not enough shown in the teaser to determine just how good or bad the film will be, it definitely looks juicy enough to get Lohan's fans to tune in.



Cool Casino...where those in the know go to play!



The great perks of gaming at Cool Casino in the Palm Beach has created a dedicated clientele; ask them what they like about the cozy casino. and they don't know where to start! The free slot tournaments every Sunday? Major pay-offs in their weekly Blackjack tournaments every Tuesday and Friday? Ladies' night every Wednesday with entertainment from great local bands? Or perhaps just the terrific benefits of being "One Cool Member" which earns players bonus points towards additional activities, free dinners, day passes at the Riu Resort, credit for play, or best of all: hard, cool cash! The casino opens daily at 10:00 AM and on Saturdays and Sundays, all are greeted with an early morning

"Kaffie Klatch" and triple points when using their membership cards.

Cool Casino is a great place to learn to understand



table games as Craps and Roulette, as they offer free instructions and minimums for beginners with which anyone can have fun and feel very comfortable. High-stakes tables and a major weekly

blackjack tournament will keep veteran high-rollers happy, as well as periodic special events that attract an international crowd; stop by and check their schedule.

Add to all this free drinks while testing the slots or trying your hand at the ta-

bles, and the opportunity to enjoy exclusive pay-per-view major sporting events at one of their dozens of plasma screens, and you can understand why loyal patrons find Cool

Casino THE fun place to play. Slot machines are open from 10:00 AM until 4:00 AM daily, and gaming tables open at 5:00 PM; ask for their schedule of special events and bonuses, as there are so many choose from, but every day offers something to get the adrenaline flowing!



Eat like a local at The Queen's restaurant at **Palm Beach Plaza**



Varella, Luisa and the next generation of chef



Keshi Yena with plaintains, vegetables and pica

breezy terrace overlooking Palm Beach welcomes guests to Varella Innocencia's very popular restaurant showcasing authentic local cuisine: The

Queen's. They may have moved

from Oranjestad to hipper new digs in Palm Beach Plaza, but the food and prices are strictly native, which is what first won this charming eatery their loyal clientele. Varella's mom, Luisa, is still in the kitchen, conjuring up the delicious dishes that have been in her family for generations, acknowledged on the menu with items such as "Carni Stoba di Mamachi"-"Grandma's Beef Stew," and their Arawak Steak, along with local delicacies like Keshi Yena -"Full Cheese." This is a tasty, filling stew of chicken, with other ingredients that are handy that day, all incased in a thick skin of melted Gouda. It was very satisfying and particularly memorable paired with The Queen's garlic bread and very special Pica, a mix of chopped onions and the famous local hot pepper, Madame Janette. Not overly spicy, it lends that perfect bit of tang to this deliciously picturesque meal.

One of the distinctions of

An elegant décor with a Aruban cuisine is incorporating unique indigenous ingredients such as in Wild Cucumber Stew and a particular light fish chowder accompanied by the local specialties pan bati (corn meal pancake) and funchi (the local version of polenta.)

.Seafood main courses range from \$14 for Catch of the Day Aruban Style to \$18 for shrimp and \$20 for a mixed seafood platter with shrimp, fish, squid, scallops and mussels. Meat dishes such as BBQ Chicken and Ribs or Grilled Tenderloin range from \$12 to \$16, each including a choice of 2 side dishes; all quite yummy and bargainpriced to boot!

The Queen's is located on the second level of Palm Beach Plaza, tucked into a cozy corner at the front of the mall. If you have a mind to try the real deal in Aruban food, without a doubt, this is the way to truly eat like a local. They are open from 11:00 AM to 11:00 PM, daily, offering indoor and outdoor dining. Aside from an extensive menu they also have daily specials made from whatever is in season and Mama Luisa is in the mood to prepare, so don't forget to ask about what isn't on the menu!

SPORTS

Cricket: Wright heroics muscle Afghans out of World T20

COLOMBO (AFP) - Luke Wright smashed an unbeaten 99 off 55 balls as defending champions England knocked Afghanistan out of the World Twenty20 with a 116-run victory in Colombo on Friday.

England, sent in to bat, piled up 196-5 after a bad start before Afghanistan were dismissed for 80 in 17.2 overs, having narrowly avoided being shot out for the lowest total ever in Twenty20 internationals.

The minnows were reduced to 26-8, and in danger of falling below Kenya's 67 against Ireland in 2008, when Gulbodin Naib and Shapoor Zadran provided unexpected resistence by adding 44 for the ninth wicket.

Naib, who came to bat at number eight, scored more than half of his team's runs before he was last man out for 44 off 32 balls that included five fours and three sixes.

But none of the other batsmen reached double figures as Jade Dernbach, skipper Stuart Broad, Samit Patel and Graeme Swann picked up two wickets each.

Alex Hales helped Wright put on 69 for the second wicket before he was run out for 31 in the 10th over.

Afghanistan, who had been given a pep talk by Indian great Sunil Gavaskar and Aravinda de Silva of Sri Lanka on Thursday night, never recovered after losing three wickets for 14 runs by the fourth over.

It soon became 22-5 in the sixth as Jonny Bairstow took a stunning diving catch at fineleg off a skier from Asghar Stanikzai.

England play India in the group's last match on Sunday.

Golf: Ryder Cup continues from page 16

Europe have bossed the event for the last 17 years, winning six out of eight editions and four out of the last five, including a thrilling 14 1/2 to 13 1/2 triumph at Celtic Manor to regain the trophy.

The US line-up looks strong with 10 of their players ranking in the world top 20. But tellingly none of them - including Woods and Phil Mickelson - have a winning record in Ryder Cup play.

In contrast, eight of the 12 Europeans enjoy winning records led by Ryder Cup stalwart Lee Westwood who in seven previous appearances has won 16, halved six and lost 11.

Many feel that the new generation of American players coming through could tilt the Ryder Cup balance back the US way, although the victorious Europe captain from two years ago, Colin Montgomerie, is not so sure.

The teams will arrive at Chicago on Monday with the first practice rounds taking place early Tuesday when the cat-and-mouse game of devining who is likely to be paired with who for Thursday's opening foursomes and fourballs will begin.

Football: Lazio face UEFA probe for Spurs 'monkey chants'

PARIS (AFP) - Italian side Lazio will face disciplinary proceedings after their fans were accused of racist behaviour during the Europa League clash at Tottenham, UEFA said on Friday.

Monkey chants were aimed at three of Tottenham's black players, Jermain Defoe, Aaron Lennon and Andros Townsend during the game at White Hart Lane which ended in a 0-0 draw.

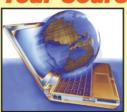
"UEFA has begun disciplinary proceedings against Lazio for 'improper conduct' by the club's supporters during Thursday's Europa League tie against Tottenham," said a UEFA statement.

"The Control and Disciplinary Body will meet on 18 October to discuss the case."

Tottenham boss Andre Villas-Boas had said after the match that UEFA should take action if there was a case to answer.

"UEFA is very active on this kind of situation so and our overall objective is to kick racism out of football," said Villas-Boas.





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Football: Real bid to kick-start Liga campaign at Rayo



Cesc Fabregas of FC Barcelona (R) duels for the ball with Jose Maria Movilla of Rayo Vallecano during the La Liga match 2011.

MADRID (AFP) - Champions Real Madrid aim to get their La Liga campaign back on track away to city rivals Rayo Vallecano following a dismal start which has seen a Lionel Messi-inspired Barcelona open up an eight-point lead over them with the season little over a month old.

Many reasons have been offered for the run of just one win in four games, from a demanding pre-season tour to claims that Jose Mourinho has lost the control of the dressing room.

But Real did offer the motivation and fight that had been missing to come from behind to beat Champions League opponents Manchester City at the Bernabeu on Tuesday.

Defeat away to Sevilla last weekend, however, means that Real have only picked up four points so far and afterwards an angry Mourinho was particularly disappointed with the manner of the defeat where the players appeared to lack interest.

Sergio Ramos, one of the heavyweights in the Madrid dressing room and has stood up to Mourinho in the past, appeared to be the one to pay the price as he was dropped against City and Raphael Varane came in to partner Pepe at centre half.

The pressure on the shoulders of the Portuguese coach would really have increased with a further defeat which looked quite possible at 2-1 down with six minutes to go but Karim Benzema and Cristiano Ronaldo turned the game around.

Most of the question marks at the start of the season were over how Barca would be able to overturn Madrid with their new coach Tito Vilanova, and with Messi leading the way they have made a storming start with four straight wins in the league and now play Granada at the Camp Nou.

Messi also proved his value on the European stage with two late goals as Barca too had to come from behind to beat Spartak Moscow on Wednesday.

The main concern for Vilanova is the number of players missing from the defence with Gerard Pique adding to the list against Spartak which saw Alex Song come on to partner Javier Mascherano at the back. Carles Puyol and Jordi Alba were also out along with long term absentee Eric Abidal.

The off-field problems concerning Malaga have not affected their start to the season and they sit behind Barcelona on 10 points with Athletic Bilbao their next opponents.

bao their next opponents.

Qatari owner Sheikh Abdullah al-Thani off-loaded some of the star players over the summer and was looking for buyers but the crisis now appears to have passed although he has cut back on investment.

Real's conquerors last weekend, Sevilla, now travel away to Deportivo la Coruna while Mallorca, who have also made a strong start, have a tough match with the visit of Valencia.

Europa League champions Atletico Madrid entertain newly promoted Valladolid who have slumped to back-toback defeats.

At the foot of the table Osasuna and Espanyol both have just one point and now take on Zaragoza and Real Betis respectively.

Fixtures (all times GMT) Saturday

Zaragoza v Osasuna (1400), Celta Vigo v Getafe (1600), Real Betis v Espanyol (1800), Barcelona v Granada (2000)

Sunday

Mallorca v Valencia (1100), Levante v Real Sociedad (1400), Atletico Madrid v Valladolid (1600), Athletic Bilbao v Malaga (1750), Rayo Vallecano v Real Madrid (1930)

Monday

Deportivo la Coruna v Sevilla (1930)

NBA: Nets owner opens new arena with title expectations

NEW YORK (AFP) - Brooklyn Nets owner Mikhail Prokhorov helped open the NBA team's new arena on Friday and the Russian billionaire said he expects the relocated club to bring home an NBA crown within three seasons.

"I still expect a championship within three years," said Prokhorov, who bought the Nets in 2009 when they were based in New Jersey with a vow the team would capture an NBA title within five seasons.

The \$1 billion Barclays Center will open next Friday with a Jay-Z concert, one of eight sold-out shows scheduled by the Brooklyn-born performer, and host its first NBA game on November 1 when the Nets face the New York Knicks.

Businessman and movie producer Bruce Ratner, like Jay-Z a part-owner of the Nets, cut the ribbon on an arena he first envisioned nine years ago.

The Nets are the first professional sports team representing the New York neighborhood since Major League Baseball's Brooklyn Dodgers departed for Los Angeles after the 1957 season.

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Baseball: Suspended Cabrera pulls out of batting title race



SAN FRANCISCO (AFP) - Melky Cabrera, the San Francisco Giants slugger who was suspended 50 games for a doping violation, has asked not to be considered for the National League batting crown, the team telecaster reported.

Comcast Sports' CSNBayArea reported Friday that the 28-year-old Dominican outfielder, banished after testing positive for excessive testosterone last month, was dropped in a deal between Major League Baseball and the players union.

"I have no wish to win an award that would be tainted," Cabrera said, adding that it would be "far better for someone more deserving to win".

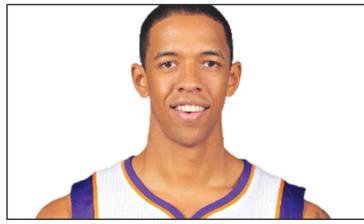
The move came two days after Major League Baseball commissioner Bud Selig said he would not have stood in the way of Cabrera claiming the batting crown.

Cabrera, batting .346 for the season, was one plate appearance shy of the minimum needed to qualify for the batting title but would have still won because a clause to the rule allows for him to take the title if a hitless time at bat is added to reach the minimum, a clause which now will not apply to Cabrera because he will be suspended at the end of the season.

The National League batting title, not won by a Giants slugger since all-time US home run king Barry Bonds hit .362 in 2004, is now a chase between San Francisco's Buster Poset at .335 and Pittsburgh's Andrew McCutchen at .339.

The Giants, who could secure a playoff spot and NL West division crown this weekend, would be allowed to bring back Cabrera if they advance past the first round but have not indicated they would do so.

NBA: Frye out with enlarged heart



PHOENIX (AFP) - Phoenix Suns forward Channing Frye has been diagnosed with an enlarged heart and will be sidelined until at least December, the NBA club announced.

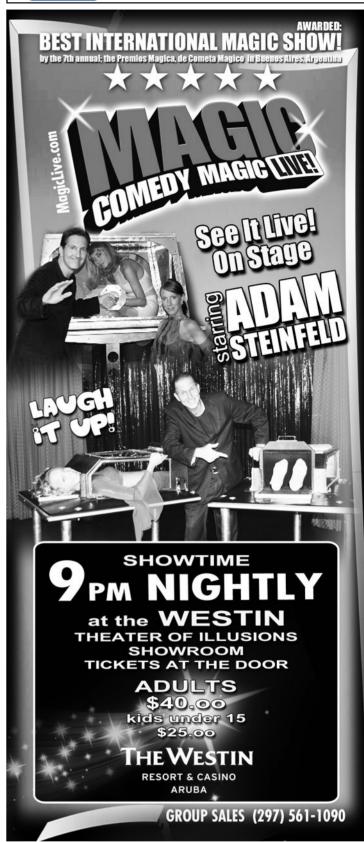
Doctors discovered the condition during a routine echocardiogram and will monitor Frye ahead of a re-evaluation in December before allowing him to take part in basketball-related activities.

"Channing and his family have the full support of our organization. His health is our primary concern and we are committed to helping him in any way he needs." Suns president of basketball operations Lon Babby said.

Frye, who has spent the past three seasons with the Suns, is a 29-year-old 3-point ace. Since joining the Suns, he has connected on 434 3-pointers, third-most in the NBA during that span.

Frye, 29, averaged 10.5 points, 5.9 rebounds and 1.4 assists in 64 games last season. He had previous stints with New York and Portland.





Report: NFL, officials still far apart

NEW YORK -- The NFL and its locked-out officials met the last two days, but a person familiar with the negotiations said the sides remain far apart and no further talks are scheduled. Michael Arnold, counsel and lead negotiator for NFL Referees Association, acknowledged the discussions, saying his group reached out to the league last week and the NFL agreed to meet. He said there may be additional talks, but it is "not appropriate" to comment on specific issues. The NFL locked out the regular officials after their contract expired. Negotiations with the NFLRA broke down several times during the summer, including just before the season. This is the first time the league is using replacements since 2001. The collection of small-college officials working the games has drawn criticism from those on the field.



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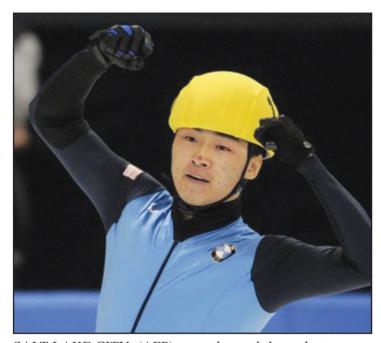
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Speedskating: US Olympian says coach ordered tampering



SALT LAKE CITY (AFP) - American speedskater Simon Cho, a 2010 Winter Olympic bronze medalist, allegedly tampered with the skates of a rival at a world championship event on orders of his coach, Chun Jae-Su.

The information was revealed in an arbitration filing on behalf of 13 short track speedskaters trying to have Chun dismissed as coach of the national team after allegations of abuse against the former South Korean national coach.

The filing claims Chun asked Cho to sabotage Canadian skater Oliver Jean by tampering with his skates before the 5,000-meter relay final at last year's world short track team championships in Poland.

A problem with Jean's blades meant Canada could

only send three skaters onto the ice.

Cho also allegedly wrote a teammate a note that said of the incident: "It is my darkest secret and I regret it."

Chun was suspended last weekend pending the results of an investigation by attorneys in the charges filed against him.

Nine members of the US short track squad signed a statement supporting Chun that calls the abuse allegations a false, baseless attack.

A US Olympic Committee spokesman said the organization is probing allegations that Chun slammed an athlete against a wall, threw bottles and chairs at skaters, and told women skaters they were "fat."

Chun faces no criminal charges from police.

Olympics: Rio 2016 officials sacked for stealing London files

RIO DE JANEIRO (AFP) -Ten members of the 2016 Olympics organising committee have been sacked for stealing computer files relating to the organisation of the 2012 London Olympics, a Rio 2016 spokesman told AFP on Friday.

The Rio employees, who had been working alongside London staff during the summer Olympics and Paralympics, had downloaded internal documents without authorization.

"These Brazilian officials worked in partnership with the London 2012 Games (LOCOG) in London, had free access to the archives but did

not have the right to download," the spokesman added.

In a statement, the Rio 2016 Committee stressed the attitude of the officials was "contrary to the principles governing mutual trust between the two organisations".

"Those involved were identified and the leadership of Rio 2016 and LOCOG acted jointly and quickly to repair the situation," the statement continued. "All of the documents were recovered and returned, and the employees were dismissed by Rio 2016."

Rio 2016 officals insisted this was an "isolated" incident given that some 200 of their employees were in London for the duration of the Games.

According to reports, London 2012 chairman Sebastian Coe telephoned his Brazilian counterpart Carlos Nuzman when he discovered that the documents had been downloaded without permission, and demanded that immediate action be taken.

Brazilian sports commentator and journalist Juca Kfouri claimed in his blog that the London files included information about strategic planning of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and security.

Golf: Rory and Tiger set for star roles in Ryder Cup



PARIS (AFP) - Rory McIlroy's Europe will defend the Ryder Cup against Tiger Woods and the United States at the Medinah Country Club outside Chicago next week in what has become golf's most spectacular event.

The world's top two players have been the focus of attention this week at the season-ending Tour Championship event in Atlanta with comments from Greg Norman that McIlroy intimidated Woods stirring the pot.

The Northern Irishman, who won his second major in August at the PGA Championship, and has won back-to-back tournaments in the FedEx Cup playoffs, was dismissive of the Australian great's comments.

"How can I intimidate Tiger Woods?" he said. "The guy's got 75 or 70 whatever PGA Tour wins, 14 majors.

For his part Woods was predictably circumspect. "It's got to be the hair, yeah," he said jokingly, referring to McIlroy's tangled mop of curls.

Whatever the case might be, the two will undoubtedly be the headliners going into what will be the 39th playing of the Ryder Cup since its inception in 1927.

It could well be of course that, like at Celtic Manor, Newport two years ago, Woods and McIlroy will never meet on the course.

But, should the contest go down to the wire, as it did in Wales, and should captains Davis Love and Jose Maria Olazabal both select their respective talismen to anchor their 12 singles slots, the stage would be set for a clash of titanic dimensions.

Of course, as every past and present-day player will confirm, the Ryder Cup, in stark contrast to the rest of golf, is a team contest and one that has soared to towering heights since Great Britain and Ireland became Europe 33 years ago.

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